



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

June 20, 1986

Hand Delivered

Mr. Jay D. Hair
Executive Vice President
National Wildlife Federation
1412 Sixteenth St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Jay,

I was disappointed, and frankly surprised, at NWF's decision to break off settlement negotiations in the steel shot lawsuit. The decision was relayed to me through your attorneys twenty minutes before the afternoon meeting. During the morning meeting, I made clear that Interior intends to deal with the lead shot issue, by proposing to end lead shot use in waterfowl hunting through the phaseout endorsed by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA). As you know, this would terminate lead shot use in waterfowl hunting by 1991-92. It represents a consensus, created by long and diligent effort, that will fully and permanently resolve this issue. I have long believed that natural resource issues are best handled by resource professionals, not by lawyers.

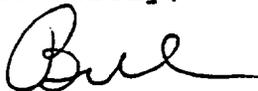
This morning, we outlined our proposal. I was under the impression that you agreed with its substance, but desired guarantees. I outlined the breadth of the consensus behind the International approach. Moreover, I indicated that we were willing to enter into a written stipulation, to be filed in open court and signed by the judge, expressing our commitment to this approach. You declined, claiming fears we might change our mind; we offered to let the lawsuit stand until the final rule was in print. We offered to put specific written commitments in the stipulation. We asked you to draft a commitment for the stipulation that would satisfy your expressed concerns; you indicated that your attorney's time was too valuable.

We broke from the morning session with an agreement that we would "go the extra mile" and prepare written commitments for your review. Your representatives would return at 3:30 to review these. At 3:10 I was informed that NWF would not return. I am speaking with restraint when I express disappointment and regret at your attitude. We have a historic opportunity to resolve this problem, once and for all, and to put these issues behind us. I regret that NWF prefers confrontation and legal disputation to consensus-building and agreement.

Regardless of your intent, Interior plans to proceed with its proposal to implement the IAFWA five-year phaseout. This coming week we will finalize our Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and publish the IAFWA concept as a proposed

rule. We still stand ready to meet with you to work out a settlement agreement and court-approved stipulation in lieu of continued judicial confrontation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill", written in dark ink.

William P. Horn
Assistant Secretary
Fish and Wildlife and Parks

cc: Mr. Carl Crouse, President
National Wildlife Federation